

Astro News

Taurus successfully launches new satellite

1st Lt. Colleen Lehne
Public Affairs

SMC chalked up another successful launch operation March 12 when a Taurus rocket lifted off from Vandenberg AFB carrying the Department of Energy's Multispectral Thermal Imager satellite.

The launch took place at 1:29 a.m. under a clear, starry sky, marking the fifth flight of the Taurus rocket—all successful.

"It's a great feeling of accomplishment when a team prepares for launch for months, cooperatively handles delay issues, runs a flawless launch checklist and then watches intently as their product performs ideally," said Col. James Neumeister, Program Manager for the DoD Space Test Program.

Telemetry from both the launch vehicle and the satellite confirmed that the launch went exactly as planned, he said.

The launch team, made up of SMC's Test and Evaluation Directorate located at Kirtland AFB, N.M., SMC Detachment 9 and the 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg AFB, Orbital Sciences, and Sandia National Laboratories, encountered a unique situation which caused the launch to slip from Feb. 28. Officials received notification on Feb. 25 that the launch path potentially put an inhabited island at risk. When the launch team issued routine warnings to ships and aircraft that might be crossing regions where spent rocket stages were expected to fall, French officials noted that a small, inhabited island was possibly within the danger zone.

"Once faced with this concern, we immediately called off the launch," said Lt. Dale White, launch mission manager. "We will always act on the side of

caution when a risk involves human life."

After discussions between the two governments began, it came to light that two islands actually raised concerns. The first was Maria, which did lie within the second stage drop zone, but is uninhabited. The second was Marutea, which is inhabited but actually lies outside the area in question.

Once French and AF officials came to a mutual understanding of the location of these remote land masses with respect to the drop zone, the launch path was approved by all parties.

The MTI satellite carries a sophisticated telescope that collects day and night images of the earth in 15 spectral bands ranging from the visible to long-wave infrared regions.

This unique imager, designed and built by a government and industry team led by Sandia National Laboratories, gives the satellite the ability to "see" reflected and thermally-radiated electromagnetic waves that are not visible to the human eye. This ability was previously achievable only in a laboratory setting.

This technology is expected to have a broad range of national defense and civilian applications ranging from treaty monitoring to mapping of chemical spills, waste pollution in lakes and rivers, vegetation health, and volcanic activity.

MTI also carries the High-Energy X-ray Spectrometer, which will collect data needed to better understand a rare species of solar flare known to be associated with high-energy particle storms that can endanger astronauts and damage space equipment. HXRS is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Environment Center and the Czech Republic's Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences.



Orbital Sciences Corporation photo

A Taurus Launch Vehicle carrying the Multispectral Thermal Imager satellite lifts off from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Upgrades force Area 'B' gate closure beginning Friday

Master Sgt. T.J. Helton
Public Affairs

The Douglas Street Gate located in Area "B" will close from March 31 to May 30.

During the closure, the drainage system will be upgraded and Mercury Drive widens from two lanes to four.

"A complete gate closure allows the construction company to speed up the construction process," said Kevin Breen, Civil Engineering chief of engineering. "If we allow partial traffic through the gate, it would extend the project out through August and bring up a lot of safety concerns."

Two of the major concerns are entrance

into the base and access to the medical facility.

"We are going to open the commissary gate located on El Segundo Boulevard," said Tech. Sgt. Jerry Jones, 61st Security Forces Squadron noncommissioned officer-in-charge of resource protection.

The commissary gate will remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the construction period.

Although the gate will be open to help with entrance and exit to the base, it offers some challenges.

"Entering the base from a busy street such as El Segundo could be hazardous when the traffic is heavy," said Jones. "We encourage everyone to be safe and courteous coming into the base."

Exiting the base, everyone must turn right, just as they did onto Douglas Street.

"It's important to know it's illegal to cut across the median and make a left hand turn onto El Segundo Boulevard," said Jones. "It's also a safety concern that everyone needs to be aware of while using the gate."

Access to the medical facility will be through a makeshift crossing from the commissary parking lot into the medical facility's parking lot.

"Although an access way will be made available, there may be some delays," said Breen. "The contractor is aware of the importance of getting to the medical facility and will make every effort to keep delays to a minimum."

"To minimize the confusion associated with this construction project, signs will be posted on and off base directing people to new entrances."

One other possible concern is the presence of the contractor at the site.

"It's necessary for the general public to know that this contract is based on performance time," said Breen. "The construction company has two months to complete the project."

"There are times when we may not see the contractor for a few days," said Breen. "It's typical while getting permits and obtaining equipment. However, we look for certain progress at certain times to ensure the job is completed on time."

Treat those getting out well

Master Sgt. Joseph Bulmahn
48th Medical Operations Squadron Recognition

ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH, United Kingdom (AFPN) — I got an e-mail the other day from one of my troops who left the Air Force last year. Ben was an outstanding airman in every sense of the word. He served his country honorably for four years and had a work ethic I sincerely admired.

His reason for leaving was simple; his father owned a construction business and was going to pay him substantially more than his E-4 pay. He did not particularly dislike the Air Force. He just had what he felt was a better deal. I respected him and was very supportive of his decision. I had already made sure he knew all the opportunities and benefits of staying in. But in the end, it was his decision to get out.

What was interesting about the e-mail was he was asking about the Air Force Reserve. He wanted to know what I knew about it and my opinion. I was a little surprised that less than a year after getting out, he wanted back in. I reflected on this for a while and thought about the current recruitment and retention problem in the military. I also wondered how many young people Ben had spoken to concerning the Air Force since he went back home.

I suddenly realized the enormous impact those leaving the service have on our recruitment. Ben is 23 now and has siblings, friends and acquaintances in their late teens and 20's. The Air Force wants us all to be recruiters. I bet Ben knows more prospects than I do; a 34-year-old stationed overseas. Whether we acknowledge it or not, those who leave the force can be our best recruiters or our worst nightmare.

My recruiter was my dad. When I was a kid, Dad spoke fondly about his four years in the Air Force. He

had so many exciting experiences during his enlistment and I loved listening to his stories. He was the one man I respected and trusted most so I hung on to every one of his words. Well into his 50's, Dad still remembers supervisors and co-workers from his late teen years with explicit detail. Because of Dad's influence on me and his attitude toward the Air Force, I was destined to enlist since early childhood. I even ran around in his old cotton fatigue shirt until I was about 12. I still have that old shirt stored in my grandma's attic. He didn't know it at the time, or even intend it, but he was my recruiter.

Why do we treat those who choose to leave as second-class citizens? Supervisors don't usually take the time to write departing troops medals, even when they were exceptional performers. And, often, when we do, someone up the chain questions why we bother. We immediately shift our full attention to the airmen who stay. Those are the ones we need to develop and take care of, right? Let's face it - we stop caring about those getting out as they get closer to leaving.

I didn't do that with Ben. We still keep in touch and I still care about his well-being and future. I am confident because of how I treated him, Ben is someone else's recruiter and may not even know it yet. If they have his character, send him to my flight. Ben, himself, may return to our "family" in some capacity.

Thousands of young Americans choose to enter the Air Force, serve honorably and complete their commitment. Despite our best efforts to retain them, many will elect to leave after four years. Let's start treating them as alumni, not deserters. Remember, these airmen may become future Guardsman, Reservists, commissioned officers, or may return to the active enlisted force. At a minimum, they can be our best recruiters. Let's never forget that.

Astro News deadlines

The Los Angeles AFB paper, the *Astro News*, is published every other week on Friday. The editorial office is located within the Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office in Building 105, Room 4049, in Area A. The telephone number is (310) 363-6428.

Deadline for article submissions is Thursday, noon, the week before the publication date. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor at **SMC.PA.Astronews@losangeles.af.mil** or sent on disk. The mailing address is:

SMC/PAI -- Astro News editor
2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467
El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659

<u>Publication dates</u>	<u>Submission dates</u>
March 31	March 24
Apr. 7	Mar. 30
Apr. 21	Apr. 13
May 5	Apr. 27
May 19	May 11
June 2	May 25
June 16	June 8
June 30	June 22
July 14.....	July 6
July 28.....	July 20
Aug. 11	Aug. 3

Action Line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to **Col. David E. Price**, 61st Air Base Group commander.

Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to work, live and play. Of course, the fastest way to resolve any problem is to ask the person who can actually fix it.

Below is a list of people who can do just that:

Base Exchange David Clore 640-0129
Base IG Dorothy Brown 363-0802
Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Garvey 363-1956



Civil Engineering Lt. Col. William Saunders 363-0287
Commissary Al Cherry 363-6140
Communications Sqd. Lt. Col. Mark Hall 363-0798
Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office
..... Leonard Gonzales 363-1565
Family Support Center Tom Sanders 363-5365
Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline 363-2020
Housing James Wirrie 363-8340
Logistics Capt. Tam Elliott 363-0351
Medical Lt. Col. Mark Wisniewski 363-5005
Mission Support Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley 363-1230
Security Forces Maj. Larry Bartlett 363-0032

Services Gary Van Dusen 363-0430
Military Equal Opportunity Office
..... Capt. Lisa Day 363-2806
TRICARE 363-0261
24-hour Crime Stop 363-2124
Legal Office Col. Scott Bagley 363-0916
Area Defense Counsel Capt. Art Kirkpatrick 363-6776

Try your supervisor, first sergeant or commander. If you are not able to resolve a problem, call the Action Line. Your call will be recorded and if you leave your name and phone number, you will receive an answer.

Astro News

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office, Los Angeles AFB, Calif. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

The *Astro News* is published every other week on Friday. The editorial office is located in Building 105, Room 4030, in Area A. The telephone number is (310) 363-6428.

Deadline for article submissions is Thursday, noon, the week before publication. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor or sent on disk. The mailing address is SMC/PAI, 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467, El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659.

The *Astro News* is published by Aerotech News and Review, a private firm, in no way associated with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive contract with the SMC Public Affairs Office. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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tor of the purchaser, user or patron.

For advertising information or space reservations, call (661) 945-5634.

Submit articles to:
SMC.PA.ASTRONEWS@
LOSANGELES.AF.MIL
or
Call 363-6428 for more
information.

News Briefs

Air Force Services introduces new 'Destination' program

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Air Force Services has announced a new centralized ticket distribution program that lets military personnel play more and pay less. The Air Force Central Ticket Program has embarked on a new "Destination" venture.

"Destination is a concept designed with the customer in mind," explained Denise Lanier, Air Force Services Agency. "The concept is to sell a destination as a product."

The first destination to "come on board" is Arlington, Texas. Located between Dallas and Ft. Worth, Arlington offers many attractions such as Six Flags over Texas, Hurricane Harbor, and Texas Rangers baseball. Many Arlington hotels are participating, with discounted rates as part of the "Destination Arlington" package.

"A military family or group of friends can visit (an) ITT (office) and leave with an entire get-away package of attractions, entertainment and a place to stay," said Lanier. "We've helped eliminate the need to search for a hotel closest to the attraction or event. The Destination Arlington ITT package takes care of that for them."

"The AFCTP is constantly seeking ways to enhance vacation destinations for our customers," said Jan Jirsak, program manager at the Air Force Services Agency. "We expect to have other packages in other areas of the United States in the future. Our goal is to give our customers new and unique opportunities and the best possible vacation package."

For more information, contact your base ITT office.

Air Force paper hits year mark

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The March 15 issue marks the first anniversary of U.S. Air Force ONLINE news which debuted March 17, 1999 as the service's official newspaper.

The paper was created to provide a balanced weekly view of Air Force news. During the past year, readers turned to ONLINE news for first-hand information on standup of the expeditionary aerospace forces, stop-loss during Operation Allied Force, Department of Defense pay table reform, retention issues, recruiting efforts, Y2K preparations, congressional testimony by senior Air Force leadership and the anthrax vaccination program.

In addition to reporting news affecting Air Force members, the paper provides readers an opportunity to express their opinions and voice their concerns to Air Force leaders. Letters to the editor remains the most often read section of the paper, averaging as many downloads as the top story for any given week.

During its first year, ONLINE news averaged 63,000 page downloads weekly with 50 percent of these coming from an af.mil domain. Additionally, an average of 23,000 people visited the front page each week. ONLINE news has 23,755 subscribers.

Work continues...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

Personnel from Lusardi Construction Company near completion on one of the 71 military housing units being built at the White Point Housing area in San Pedro that will house senior noncommissioned officers and officers assigned to Los Angeles AFB. Lusardi took over the project after the last contractor went bankrupt. The estimated completion date is September.

CSAF's reading program features enlisted pilots

The Chief of Staff's reading program, which began in 1997, is designed to promote personal professional development for all Air Force members, civilian and military. The program aims to instill both a deeper sense of pride in our rich heritage and a stronger understanding of our role in meeting our nation's security objectives. Each quarter, one of the books from the CSAF's Reading List is spotlighted as the book of the quarter. Air Force members of all ranks and grades are encouraged to read the featured title, which is available in all Air Force libraries.

"It is not the policy of the War Department to train enlisted men in flying aeroplanes."

This quarter's featured book is "They Also Flew: The Enlisted Pilot Legacy, 1912-1942," by Lee Arbon. Arbon traces the history and achievements of enlisted aviators from their earliest days in flight through 1942. From the start, these "sergeant pilots" struggled to earn their wings in a military organization that traditionally reserved pilot positions for commissioned officers.

Arbon argues that enlisted personnel were allowed to earn their wings to offset a shortage of officers entering the Signal Corps Aeronautical Division and later the Army Air Corps. They filled in the gaps when and where they were needed. They flew fighters, bombers, transports, and trainers during wartime, and some paid the ultimate price for their service. Between the wars, they were in-

involved in airmail operations, aviation races, weather data flights, aerial acrobatic contests, and forest fire patrols. Many became instructor pilots and flight test pilots.

As World War II approached, pilot training resumed for new enlisted personnel as the demand for pilots was at a premium. However, this action created animosity among those who wanted all pilots to be officers. As a consequence, most active duty enlisted pilots were ordered to extended duty as reserve officers. Enlisted pilots were a dying breed, and in November 1942, the U.S. Army Air Forces concluded that upon graduation, enlisted aviation cadets would be promoted to the rank of flight officer, a new rank equivalent to warrant officer. In early 1943, the Army Air Forces ordered its commanders to promote all their flying sergeants to the new rank.

These men persevered through two world wars enduring bureaucratic discrimination while facing the hazards and dangers of flight. Their selfless acts and outstanding conduct are worth attention; out of their ranks came 17 "aces," 11 gen-

erals, and more than 155 men killed in action. Arbon provides a fascinating account of this proud group of aviators, and his book is a "must read" for all Air Force members interested in exploring their heritage.

For more information on this book and others on the CSAF's Reading List, visit the web site at www.af.mil/readinglist. (Courtesy of AFNEWS)



Blotter: Drugs, shoplifting, thefts keep base police busy

The following information was provided by the 61st Security Forces Squadron resource protection section. It includes police responses from March 11 to 20.

Medical emergency

Los Angeles City Fire Department paramedics and security forces responded to the Pacific Crest housing area to assist with the wife of an Air Force member who was feeling dizzy. The paramedics transported her to the San Pedro Peninsula Hospital for treatment and observation.

El Segundo City Fire Department paramedics and security forces responded to The Club to assist with a civilian Air Force employee who was experiencing dizziness and shortness of breath. After initial assessment, the individual declined to be transported to the hospital and was instructed to seek medical attention.

Theft of private property

The wife of an Air Force member reported the theft of her jewelry from a suitcase in a room at the Fort MacArthur Inn. Security forces are investigating.

Shoplifting

The wife of an Army member was detained for allegedly shoplifting. Security forces and the El Segundo Police Department responded. The individual was issued a suspension-of-base-exchange-and commissary-privileges

letter and cited for petty theft by the El Segundo Police.

An Air Force member was apprehended by security forces for shoplifting from the base exchange. The subject was apprehended at Fort MacArthur after fleeing the scene in her vehicle.

Unauthorized exit

An Air Force member was apprehended by security forces after being observed climbing over the Area “A” turnstile.

Trespass with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia

An off-base resident contacted security forces and reported five individuals climbing over the fence at the White Point Construction Area. Security forces detained the five individuals. A search of the individuals was conducted. One individual was in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia and the another was in possession of drug paraphernalia. Los Angeles Police Department Harbor Division was contacted and responded and took control of the individuals.

Trespass and possession of a dangerous drug

A security forces patrol observed and detained thir-

teen unauthorized individuals in the Area “A” Civil Engineering compound. El Segundo City Police responded and assisted. A search of the individuals revealed a drug called “Ecstasy.” The individuals were released into the custody of the El Segundo City Police.

Domestic dispute

An Army member reported his wife, whom he is separated from, sitting on his vehicle at Fort MacArthur and would not get off. Security Forces responded and determined there was no damage to the vehicle and no crime had been committed. The wife was then escorted off the installation.

Damage to government property

An Air Force member’s son accidentally broke the living room window to their Fort MacArthur residence. Security forces accomplished a damage report.



DFAS offers opportunity to change pay information by PC

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has begun offering a new service called Employee/Member Self Service. This service allows DoD customers to update certain pay information by using a personal computer to access the pay system via the Internet or by using a push-button telephone via an interactive voice response system.

DFAS payroll customers can now change their own Federal tax withholding status and exemptions; start, stop or change allotments, this feature is not a part of the annuitant payroll system, change their correspondence address; and update their financial institution electronic fund transfer information. Future phases of E/MSS will include other transactions such as starting or stopping savings bonds and changing state taxes.

A myriad of security features are built into the design of E/MSS. E/MSS Internet

transmissions require 128-bit encryption and uses secure socket-layer technology. Access to the system is controlled via the use of social security number and a personal identification number. Letters assigning temporary PINs to customers are on their way. When accessing E/MSS the first time, customers will be asked to customize their PIN, which will be validated each time the customer signs on.

In addition to the PIN, customers will need access to a personal computer with one of the following industry-standard browsers: Netscape Navigator versions 3.0, 4.01 or higher, Microsoft Internet Explorer version 4.0 or higher, or Netscape Commu-

nicator. Netscape Communicator 4.7 with 128-bit strong encryption is now available worldwide

First, E/MSS will be available to DFAS customers serviced through the Defense Retiree and Annuitant Pay System, the Marine Corps Total Force System and the Defense Civilian Pay System. The Defense Joint Military Pay System customers will have E/MSS capabilities at a future date.

After accessing the system, menus will guide customers through desired transactions. After the customer has made changes, the system will ask the customer to confirm the action and then tell them when the change will be reflected

on the pay record.

According to Gloria Cranford-Bates, E/MSS Project Officer, "This system provides an alternative to completing and submitting forms and will provide reliable and accurate information. Most importantly, E/MSS is a secure way for customers to update payroll-related transactions at their own convenience, with minimal effort and without the delays inherent in paper-based processes."

E/MSS is a voluntary service. Customers who prefer the existing system of making pay changes will still be able to visit their local accounting and finance office or customer service representative to submit hardcopy forms.

For more information, call customer service at 363-1534 or visit the DFAS home page at **www.dfas.mil**. (*Courtesy of Defenselink and SMC financial services.*)



Military members must complete census survey

2nd Lt. Margaret Howard
61st Mission Support Squadron

Military members assigned to Los Angeles AFB are required to complete a census survey in Building 219 room 1440C/D during the week of April 3.

Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States says the census 2000 must reach every person living in the United States.

Survey completion on base is required even though the surveys have been sent to your residence. The census bureau is requiring the surveys be filled out from both sources.

Community leaders use the census for everything from planning schools and building roads to providing recreational opportunities and managing health care services. But the mandate for conducting a census every 10 years comes from the U. S. Constitution. The founding fathers wanted to establish a truly representative government, and linking state population totals to the number of members in the House of Representatives would serve this purpose. Apportionment, the process of distributing the 435 Congressional seats among the states, depends

on the size of the population in each state. Still, apportionment of Congress is only half the process of distributing political power. Virtually all states rely on the census numbers for redistricting, the redrawing of political districts within the states after apportionment. These areas are the essential building blocks for creating new districts and meeting the “one-person-one-vote” requirements of the Supreme Court.

Census numbers are used to effect many things in our everyday lives. The distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in state and federal funds for education, health care, transportation, and other critical programs is based on census numbers. Government agencies use information on language spoken at home in the design and implementation of programs and initiatives that serve language minorities, including children and adults who have limited proficiency in English. The Voting Rights Act, for example, requires a census question on language to determine the need for voting materials in languages other than English. Federal and state governments use the data to determine the distribution of funds and to develop programs for people with disabilities. The numbers provided help develop recreational programs for people of all ages. People from many walks of life use census data to advo-

cate for causes, research markets, target advertising, locate pools of skilled workers, prevent diseases, even rescue disaster victims.

A toll-free telephone assistance number printed on the form also will provide assistance in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Tagalog, as well as English. Assistance will even be available through the Census Bureau’s Internet site **<http://www.census.gov>**.

The Census Bureau’s dedication to confidentiality plays an important role in everything it does. The agency employs a host of safeguards, such as electronic barriers and secure telephone lines, to block outside access to any confidential information in Census Bureau computers. You can put fear to rest right now. Federal law (Title 13, United States Code) mandates that *no one* outside the Census Bureau can ever be given any information that would enable them to connect your answers with your name and address. This means courts of law, credit companies, solicitors, the police and military, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, immigration and welfare agencies — nobody! But what about the Freedom of Information Act? Well, it might give individuals access to lots of information, but not to individual census answers.

Split disbursement: A new way to pay travel costs

1st Lt. Thomas Brown
Deputy Financial Services Officer

As the Force moves us into the digital/electronic age, change is to be expected. The old way of TDY travel is one of those changes. In anticipation of the defense travel system, the Department of Defense will soon make use of the government travel card mandatory for all official travel expenditures, specifically airfare, hotel, lodging and rental car, unless specifically exempt.

Since you have the responsibility to pay Bank of America in a timely manner, and you could be in an extended travel situation, the Air Force has provided a simple, efficient and easy way to help you with this responsibility.

It is called split disbursement. This is a beneficial way to ensure card payments are met on time. Circumstances are dif-

ferent for each traveler, but under the umbrella of split disbursement are payment options that will meet each individual’s needs.

The bottom line is that the traveler does not need to bear the cost up front, or run the risk of being delinquent. Split disbursement decreases the travelers’ unnecessary cash flow and potential for delinquent travel bills.

The following information is provided to assist card users to better understand the changes

- Using a government travel card for airfare prior to departing on TDY?
Get an advance payment. Provide the finance office, by walk-through or FAX, a copy of your orders and GTC bill.
The finance office will not advance cash or send the payment to your bank account. But they will electronically transfer the payment directly to Bank of

America for your government travel card bill. (*Note: This example may apply only for unusual circumstances where a commercial plane ticket is purchased early and the GTC bill is received prior to TDY departure*).

- Payment of a recurring travel card bill while TDY for more than 45 days?
Use accrual payment. After the first 45 days and every 30 days thereafter, provide the finance office a copy of your orders and a voucher specifying the amount for split disbursement, a copy of all receipts for expenses up to date including airfare, lodging, rental car, etc.
- Paying a travel card bill upon completion of TDY using split disbursement?
On your travel voucher, check the box for split disbursement, and include the amount you want sent to Bank of America. This will ideally include the cost of air-

fare, hotel, lodging and rental car.

For more information, call customer service at 363-1534.

Chapel Schedule

Roman Catholic

Saturday: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:45 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: Mass at 9 a.m., CCD in Building 37 at 10:30 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday: Sunday School at 9 a.m., Building 37; General Protestant worship at 10:30 a.m.

All the above services are at the Fort MacArthur Chapel.

Leading L.A.

Master Sergeant Anthony Wood

is the chief, quality assurance evaluator, for the 61st Air Base Group Civil Engineer Division.

He oversees five service contracts valued at more than \$10 million. These contracts include base maintenance, custodial, military family housing, refuse and elevator contracts.

He was responsible for realigning the unit personnel management roster to ensure they had the right personnel in the right job to provide technical quality assurance surveillance.

"My job ensures the proper operation and maintenance of facilities and real property valued in excess of \$500 million. The bottom line is we work to achieve maximum value and quality results for each Air Force dollar spent," said Wood.

The North Carolina native is currently working on course 5, senior noncommissioned officer correspondence course and pursuing a Community College of the Air Force degree in electrical/mechanical technology.

"My goal is to always perform to the best of my ability, remain consistent and be an outstanding senior noncommissioned officer," said the eighteen-year Air Force veteran.

Wood is an Air Base Group senior noncommissioned officer and SMC exercise evaluation team annual award winner. He is also the plans and programming officer for the base Top 3.

He is currently planning the third annual Top 3 golf tournament scheduled for May.

He enjoys golfing, taking care of his family and working in the yard.



Congratulations

Officer promotions

The following officers will be promoted in April: to lieutenant colonel, **Leslie Blackman** and **Scott Henderson**. To captain, **Erik Bauer**. To first lieutenant, **Kenneth Decker**, **Arnold Johnson Jr.**

Enlisted promotions

The following enlisted members will be promoted in April: to technical sergeant, **Roger Gregorius**, **Ariel Manning**. To staff sergeant, **Jason Rusticelli** and **Terri**

Honeycutt. To senior airman **Krisit Gadson**, **Deedee Herrera**.

CCAF Graduates

The following members received their Community College of the Air Force associate's degree: master sergeants **Brian Himmelberger**, **David Markowski**, **Harry Seballos**, technical sergeant **Raven Ferrer**, staff sergeants **Galen Copes**, **Mark Garner**, **Maniphet Kannalikhham** and senior airman **Raminah Hartke**.



**Set your clocks
AHEAD
one hour
at 2 a.m.
Sunday
April 2, 2000**

Air Force graphic by Will Daniel

Air Force members participate in 15th Los Angeles Marathon

Peggy Hodge
Public Affairs

Angelenos have been cooped up for many weekends due to rain. But 23,000 runners and thousands more “flew the coop” to participate in the 15th Annual Los Angeles Marathon March 5.

At least three SMC runners combatted a chilly rain storm to complete the 26.2 mile race—Maj. Mark Hedgepeth, NAVSTAR Global Positioning System joint program office, Capt. Jesse Arnstein, Staff Judge Advocate Office, and Master Sgt. Jim Van Hoesen, 61st Air Base Group command post.

“Major Hedgepeth deserves the most respect—he was out there the longest,” said Arnstein. He finished in 6:43:43.

“As my first marathon, it was an awesome feeling, completing a goal set forth in August, especially with the outstanding support from the volunteers and bystanders along the way,” said Hedgepeth. “My only personal disappointment, was not achieving my desired time, due to an injury. However, overcoming the injury and still running — or should I say jogging — was a victory in itself.”

Van Hoesen and Arnstein both finished in the top one percent with impressive times of 2:57:45 and 2:57:43 respectively (about 6:47 per mile). This was good enough for 108th and 109th places. While their times were nearly identical, the two never saw each other on the race course. Each runner wears a timing chip so their personal clock does not begin until they cross the starting line. Since there are so many runners, it takes more than 10 minutes for some to start their race.

“I never get smart out there, because when you are involved in an event like this, you are always just one step away from dropping out. My right achilles tendon began to hurt at mile 18. I slowed down a little and the pain went away. A lot can go wrong,” said Van Hoesen.

Race officials had anticipated 19 musical bands playing at nearly every mile. However, the rain (and threat of ruined equipment) chased most musicians away. But the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

Captain Jesse Arnstein, staff judge advocates office and Master Sgt. Jim Van Hoesen, 61st Air Base Group command post, show off their form.

harsh conditions did not deter the volunteers, who handed out water and food to the runners at every mile.

“I have to admit I got a little emotional when I turned the corner and saw the finish line and realized I was going to make it in under three hours,” said Van Hoesen.

Several days after the race, Capt. Arnstein’s legs were still sore.

“It’s going to take a while for me to recover completely. The day after the race I walked on the treadmill for about 30 minutes—which is all I could take.”

Sports Shorts

One-on-One Basketball

A one-on-one basketball tournament will be held from Monday to Friday, based on the number of participants, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up at the fitness center or call Staff Sgt. Ramos at 363-6816 or e-mail ronnell.amos@losangeles.af.mil.

Bowling

One woman and four men are needed for the AFMC All-Star Bowling Tournament Sunday to Friday at Tinker AFB. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Gordovez at 363-6816.

Volleyball

The fitness center needs volleyball players and coaches for the AFMC All-Star Tournament. The men’s team is going to Hill AFB, Utah, April 19 to 25. The women’s team is going to Brooks AFB, Texas, May 10 to 16. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ramos at 363-6816.

Softball

Players and coaches are needed for the AFMC All-Star Softball Tournament. The men’s team is going to Eglin AFB, Fla., July 5 to 11. The women’s team is going to Robins AFB, Ga., July 26 to Aug. 1.

Personal Trainers Available

The fitness center offers one-on-one **free** individualized fitness programming. We have certified personal trainers that offer the following services: Fitness assessments, personal fitness planning, fitness goal setting, programs to lower cholesterol, strength training, cardiovascular training, proper use of equipment and proper lifting techniques. Individual appointments can be made by calling 3-6815 or you can ask at the front desk for a trainer during workouts.

Cybox Equipment

Come check out the new Cybox equipment at the fitness center. Certified trainers are available for a quick lesson on how to use the equipment properly.

April events

The following events are scheduled for April: One-pitch softball tournament, hot shot basketball contest, and tennis tournament. Start now and form your team.

**Astro News Special Edition
coming March 31**

SJA offers basic tax tips

1st Lt. David Evon
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

The following information is provided to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about taxes and the military.

Since April 15 is a Saturday, when are taxes due?

Tax returns will be due April 17th.

I had a baby during 1999. Does my newborn need a social security number?

Individuals who had a child during tax year 1999 must obtain a social security number for the newborn to be able to claim the exemption, the child tax credit, or the childcare expense credit.

During 1999, I married and changed my name. Do I need to bother changing my social security information?

Individuals who have changed their name during tax year 1999 must amend their social security information to reflect the change.

How can I create or amend a social security number?

The Social Security Office for Los Angeles AFB can be reached toll-free at 1-800-772-1213.

When should I have received my W-2 forms?

Individuals should have received their W-2 forms by February 1. If you have not received your W-2, you must contact your employer. Military members can call 363-1534.

Where can I get the forms necessary to file my tax return?

The Federal tax forms are currently available in the entry of Building 120 and on the web at www.irs.gov or www.irs.gov/prod/forms_pubs/ftaframes.html

What is the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act?

The SSCRA deems that a member's military pay is earned in his or her state of domicile. The state in which a member is stationed may not tax the member's military pay unless it is the member's state of domicile. If a member chooses to work an additional job, the income from that job may be taxed by both states. Finally, spouses do not receive the same protections under the SSCRA. If a spouse retains his or her domicile, he or she may be taxed by both states. If an individual's income is subject to taxation by two states, one state will generally give a tax credit.

What actions would cause the State of California to consider me a California resident?

The State of California will consider a military member a resident if the member takes the following actions: registers to vote in California; files for a homeowner's exemption in California; claims to be a resident of California for purposes of attending a community college, a four-year college or a university in California; files California income tax returns; or changes his or her tax home to California for purposes of withholding.

May I exclude my combat zone pay from my gross income?

Military members serving in areas designated by the President as a combat zone may exclude military pay from gross income. Additionally, it is important to note that a qualified hazardous duty area qualifies for the combat zone treatment. Enlisted and warrant officers may exclude all military pay. Commissioned officers may only exclude up to the maximum enlisted pay.

What parts of my military compensation are subject to taxation?

When calculating gross income, the member must include basic pay, special pay, fees, commissions, bonuses, termination pay, and severance pay.

For more information, contact your unit tax advisor or the legal office at 363-0916.

Play Tee-Ball...



Photo by Airman First Class Angela Malek

Phillip Smith, 5, hits the ball off the tee during practice at the Fort MacArthur Parade Field Saturday. To sign up, call 363-8382.

CCAF grants associate's degree

The Community College of the Air Force is a two-year, federally chartered degree-granting institution serving the job-related educational needs of the Air Force enlisted community. CCAF offers associate degrees in applied science, degrees that enhance mission readiness, contribute to recruiting, assist in the retention of Air Force enlisted members and support career transitions.

One of the top three reasons enlisted personnel give for joining the Air Force is that they want to continue their education. Nearly all of those wanting to continue their

education indicated they desired an associate's or higher level degree.

Supervisors consistently rate active-duty CCAF graduates higher over non-graduates. The majority of graduates who have transferred their CCAF course credits to four-year institutions said that between one- and two-thirds of credits transferred.

The degree must be completed before you are commissioned, separate or retire from the Air Force. For more information, call Henry Bennett at 363-3643. (Information courtesy of base education office.)

SMC Today

Got a good story? The staff of the video program, 'SMC Today', would love to hear about it. To submit story ideas for 'SMC Today', call Terry Hagar at 363-2465.

Chaplain programs

The 48th Annual National Prayer Luncheon is scheduled for April 4 at 11 a.m. in The Club’s ballroom. This year’s guest is the Citadel Gospel Choir from the Citadel Military College, S.C. They will perform an array of traditional spirituals, contemporary gospel music and selected anthems. This event is open to all DoD personnel and their dependents, reserves and retired military. The menu consists of an Italian buffet. The cost per ticket is \$5 for enlisted personnel and \$8 for everyone else. Tickets may be obtained through your executive officer, first sergeant or the chaplain’s office. For more information, call 363-1956.

Lenten Observances will be held in the Daedalian Room Wednesday, April 5 and 12 at 11:30 a.m.

Soup n’ Bread Suppers will be held at Fort MacArthur, Building 37 at 6 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross at the Fort MacArthur Chapel at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 5 and 12 at 11:30 a.m.

A Seder/Passover meal will be held at the Cabrillo Marina, April 9 at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit the Chaplain Service Division in Building 219, Room 1901 or call 363-1956.

Space Power Workshop

The 18th annual Space Power Workshop is April 10 to 13 at the Torrance Marriott Hotel. Registration is \$200. For more information, call Jackie Amazaki at 336-4073 or visit www.aero.org/conferences/power.

Frame-of-Choice program

The FOC program gives new and different eyewear choices free to all active-duty Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard personnel. Due to high demand, personnel will be authorized fitting for the new glasses according to this schedule:

March	E-1 through E-4
April	E-5 through E-6
May	E-7 through E-9
June	O-1 through O-2
July	O-3 through O-4
August	O-5 through O-6
Sept.	O-6 and above

For more information, call Senior Airman Terri Honeycutt at 363-2485.

Fort MacArthur Clinic hours

Primary care

- Mondays - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday - Fridays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturdays - Acute care with primary care provider 8 a.m. to noon

Sick Call

- Mondays - Walk-in 7 to 7:30 a.m., 1 to 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays - Fridays by appointment only, call 363-8307

Pediatric

- Mondays - Fridays 7 a.m to 4 p.m.

Important telephone numbers:

- Front desk: 363-8330

- Appointment desk: 363-8291 and 363-8292
- Pharmacy: 363-8301
- Laboratory: 363-8302

TRICARE News

TRICARE Prime enrollees will experience an added benefit when scheduling appointments at Los Angeles AFB clinics. Members assigned to Los Angeles who call to schedule an appointment will be assigned a provider according to their organization. All other active duty family members and retirees’ family members will be assigned a provider according to the last two digits of the sponsor’s social security number. For more information, call Rosie Manning at 363-0261.

If you are on active duty and you work and live in a remote area, you may be eligible to enroll in the TRICARE Prime Remote Program. The DoD began a new health care program to help active-duty members get health care more easily when they are assigned to remote locations.

The new program is called TRICARE Prime Remote. Under TRICARE Prime Remote, active-duty members who work and live more than 50 miles, based on zip codes, from a military treatment facility or clinic can receive most of their medical and dental care from local civilian doctors. If you are active duty and work and live in an identified zip code, you qualify for the program and must enroll. To find out if you qualify for TRICARE Prime Remote, to enroll or for more information, call (800) 242-6788 and press option 1, then 3.

Notes

If you are a college student and a family member of an active duty Air Force member, Air Force Services may have a job for you. For the third consecutive year, Air Force Services, in conjunction with the University of Northern Iowa’s Camp Adventure program, is recruiting college students to serve as summer camp counselors at Air Force installations around the world.

Individuals who have completed their freshman year in college and are willing to travel are eligible for this exciting program which offers participants the opportunity to gain valuable experience serving children and youth.

This is an academic program with 12 undergraduate/graduate credits offered through the University of Northern Iowa’s school of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services. Selected individuals will undergo a week of intensive camp counselor training near the end of May before being flown to their assigned base. Although the program does not offer participants a wage, the program does provide living expenses, including the cost of food and lodging. For the summer of 2000, ten counselor positions have been set aside for Air Force family members.

To apply for this program, interested individuals should contact Pat Brown, the youth center director at 363-8383 or Randy Jones at 210-625-4045 or DSN 487-4045. For more detailed information on UNI and Camp Adventure, you can access the Camp Adventure web page at www.campadventure.com.

The Club 363-2230

Swing dance lessons will be provided Friday in the Atrium room at 4:30 p.m.
Alli-Kat Kalli and Jeter-Bug will demonstrate and give free lessons.

The bar is open Fridays at 4 p.m. Free snacks are available to club members. The disc jockey starts playing at 5 p.m.

Barber Shop 363-1733

The shop’s hours are Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Building 120.

Vet Clinic 363-8269

Call 363-8269 for an appointment. Messages may be left on the answering machine when the clinic is closed. Please state name, phone number, animal’s name and species, as well as what kind of appointment is needed. The clinic will call you back with an appointment.

The Vet Clinic accepts VISA and MasterCard.

Youth Services 363-8383

The Ronald McDonald Fun Run is slated for May 21. All ages can participate. All proceeds support Camp Ronald McDonald. Entry fees are \$15 per runner prior to April 28, \$20 after April 29. Sign up by April 24.

A spring fashion show will be held today beginning at 7 p.m at the community center. Kids of all ages can participate. Sign up at the youth center by today.

Movie, pizza and float night will be held Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$3.

Youth activities is looking for instructors to teach ballet, tap, gymnastics and piano. For more information, call Rebecca Burns at 363-8381.

Youth activities are open to DoD civilian employee’s family members. For more information, call 363-8564 or 8402.

Los Angeles AFB Performing Arts Troupe--Want to develop your artistic side? Whether you are or want to be, an actor, dancer, singer, artist, seamstress, director, choreographer, carpenter, lighting technician or stage mom/dad, sign up now.

Parents looking for a teen sitter can call the Teen Scene

for the list of those that completed the “Teen for Tots” babysitting program.

Family Child Care 833-8334

The Family Child Care Program is looking for individuals who enjoy working with children, who want to work out of their home and earn money. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please call our office at 363-8335. You will receive all the training required.

Child Development Center 363-8335

The El Segundo CDC needs used compact discs for the center’s preschoolers to make sun catchers in the spring.

The Fort MacArthur Community Center 363-8225

The community center takes a trip to the Staples Center to see the LA Lakers play the Philadelphia 76ers Friday. The bus leaves the community center at 5:45 p.m. and returns after the game. The cost is \$27 per person and includes ticket and transportation. This trip is open to all identification cardholders and their guests. Sign up and pay by Thursday.

Tickets & Information 363-2190

The tickets and information office has vouchers for lift tickets and skiing lessons for several ski and snowboard areas in California and Nevada.

Note: Some ski resort areas have options such as cross-country skiing, sledding, inner-tubing and even skateboarding areas. Equipment can be rented from the base equipment rental office or ski resorts.

Continued on Page 14

Important medical phone numbers

The following are phone numbers for the 61st Medical Squadron’s clinic:

Appointment desk	363-0964
Dental clinic	363-0962
Flight Med/Physical Exams	363-5029
Fort MacArthur Clinic	363-8291
Health and Wellness Center	363-6268
Health Benefits Advisor.....	363-0261
Immunizations	363-1501
Laboratory	363-5011
Mental Health Clinic	363-1251
Optometry Clinic	363-2485
Outpatient Records	363-5024
Pediatric Clinic	363-6958
Pharmacy	363-2860
Primary Care Clinic	363-0037
Public Health	363-5034
Radiology	363-2480
Managed Care/TRICARE	363-5040
TRICARE Prime Service Center	

(800) 242-6788
For after-hours care, call the health care finder at 352-5443 prior to seeking non-emer-

gency care.
To cancel a scheduled appointment, call the appointment desk at least 24 hours prior to your appointment.
The El Segundo clinic and services hours for dental, flight medicine, optometry, women’s health, primary care, mental health, pediatrics is from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. week-days. Active-duty sick call is 7 to 7:30 a.m. and 1 to 1:30 p.m.
The Fort MacArthur clinic hours (Effective 1 Feb 00) for Pediatrics are Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Adult health care is Monday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Active duty sick call will be by call-in appointment only. Please call (310) 363-8291 or (310) 363-8330 any time after 7 a.m. for guidance and/or an appointment. Active duty sick call appointments at Fort MacArthur start at 9 a.m. Active duty sick call appointments for urgent illnesses are available at the main clinic from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Pediatric sick call hours will not change.
For billing questions, call the Resource Management Office at 363-5040, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Numbers and hours of operation

Base Exchange	640-0129	Mon to Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Commissary	363-2767	Tues to Sat 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Shoppette	832-9611	Sun to Mon 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tues to Sat 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Class Six	322-7533	Tues to Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Gas Station	615-0295	Mon to Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sat 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Youth Services	363-8383	Mon to Fri 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pool		Noon to 8 p.m., Closed Wednesdays
Teen Center	363-8381	Tues to Thur 3 to 10 p.m. Fri to Sat 3 to 11 p.m.
CDC (Fort MacArthur) ...	363-8335	Mon to Fri 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
CDC (LAAFB)	363-1792	6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays
Equipment Rental	363-2081	Mon to Fri 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Auto Skills Center	363-1705	Tues to Thur 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fri to Sat 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Community Center	363-8225	Mon to Fri 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fitness Center (LAAFB) ..	363-6815	Mon to Fri 9 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Sat and Sun 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Fitness Center	363-8361	Mon to Fri 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(Fort MacArthur)		Sat and Sun 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tickets and Tours	363-2190	Mon to Fri 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fort MacArthur Inn	363-8296	Mon to Fri 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
		Sat and Sun 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Library	363-8265	Tues 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wed to 7 p.m.
The Club	363-2230	Mon to Fri: Breakfast 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.; lunch 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; snack bar 10 to 11:30 a.m.; bar Fri 4 p.m. to 12 a.m.; office 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lift tickets for Big Bear \$27.50, Snow Summit \$31, Snow Valley \$28, Mammoth \$45 and Mountain High \$27.

Equipment Rental

A snow board package is \$8 and includes boots and board.

Los Angeles AFB has four recreational vehicle storage facilities located next to Building 219 and 215 in Area B next to the FamCamp in Lawndale and one at Fort MacArthur. Storage fees are \$30 per month for RVs over 23 feet and \$20 per month for RVs under 23 feet long.

Note: The RV storage located at Fort MacArthur is open to active duty military personnel residing in military housing.

Auto Skills Center 363-1705

The March special is a tune-up. The cost is from \$35 to \$55, based on size and make of vehicle.

The auto skills center is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. It's located behind Building 219 next to the car wash.

The Air Force has an online newspaper available at the touch of the finger. Check it out at www.af.mil/newspaper

SPACE-A-Travel

The following SPACE-A-Travel information is courtesy of the Air Mobility Command information center operating from Los Angeles International Airport.

The AMC information center's hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily during flight arrivals and departures. The Marine Corps liaison office hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, and the number is 363-1997 or 3590.

The AMC customer service branch phone number is 363-0714 and -0715. For recorded flight information, call DSN 833-0716, commercial 363-0716 or toll free (800) 756-2640. The lost-and-found baggage service section phone number is 417-1603.

Space available sign-up may be made in person, by fax or by e-mail. To send a fax, dial DSN 833-2790 or commercial 363-2790. To sign up via e-mail, send to spacealax@travis.af.mil.

April arrivals

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Flight Number</u>	<u>Arrival time</u>	<u>Arriving from</u>
Wednesday...	5, 12, 19, 26	MC88.....	1130	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
Saturday ..	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	MC80.....	1205	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena
No scheduled arrivals on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Sunday				

April departures

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Flight Number</u>	<u>SPACE-A Showtime</u>	<u>Departure time</u>	<u>Destinations</u>
Sunday	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	MC71	1840	2140	Seattle, Osan, Kadena
Monday	3, 10, 17, 24	MC87	2050	2350	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
Thursday	6, 13, 20, 27	MC79	2040	2340	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena

Passengers with confirmed reservations may check in up to six hours prior to departure. Information is now available on the internet at www.travis.af.mil/space_a/laxindex.htm

Astro News is looking for interesting stories. Call 363-6428 if you have one.